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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INTELLIFAX 14

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 4 October 1951

SUBJECT Construction on the Laipin-Chennankuan
Railway in Kwangsi

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1. The Chinese Communists planned to use the Lai Chen (來鎮) railway in Kwangsi to transport troops to Southeast Asia. The original plan called for the completion of the rail section from Yungning (109-42, 25-10) to Chennankuan (106-41, 21-58) by the end of September, but the work was delayed by poor construction, floods, poor engineering, and destruction of warehouses and equipment by Nationalist agents.¹ To speed the completion of the railway, the Kwangtung and Kwangsi governments were each ordered to recruit 50,000 coolies.
2. YEH Chien-ying ordered 50,000 prisoners sent to Kwangsi because coolies were not available. The first group of prisoners to arrive in Canton came from the following administrative offices: 3,000 from Central Kwangtung; 1,800 from the Pearl River; 2,800 from the East River; 2,500 from Hsing Mei (興梅); 4,000 from Ch'aoshan (潮山);³ and 800 from West River. The Kwangtung provincial government has instructed the administrative districts to send the full number of prisoners within one week.⁴

1. [REDACTED] Comment. According to a Nanning newspaper, there was a big explosion at the Nanning railroad station on 5 September, and the deadline for completing construction to the Indochina border was advanced to mid-November. The newspaper attributed the delay to floods, guerrillas, and a shortage of rails.

25X1A 2. [REDACTED] Comment. The reference here is probably to the Hsingning-Meih sien district.

25X1A3. [REDACTED] Comment. Probably the reference is to the Ch'aosan-Swatow (Shant'ou) district.

4. 25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. The Hsing Tao Jih Pao of 20 September reported that over 25,000 persons in Kwangtung had been drafted into labor camps, with one corps being recruited from each hsien of the province.

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